

RECORD OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

Applicant's appointed representative, attorney Ari M. Bai, conducted a personal interview at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office with Examiner Rebecca Fritchman and Supervisory Primary Examiner Vicki Kim on January 20 at 2:30 PM Eastern Time for approximately 40 minutes. During the interview, Mr. Bai discussed the Ito reference in order to clarify the structure and operation of the countercurrent chromatography apparatus disclosed in the reference cited by the Examiner. In particular, Mr. Bai explained that based on his discussion with the inventor, Yoichiro Ito, who was also the sole inventor of the Ito reference, the reference failed to teach or suggest that a plate for a countercurrent chromatography apparatus have a plurality of spiral flow channels in which at least one of the plurality of spiral flow channels was in fluid flow communication with another one of the plurality of spiral flow channels. The Examiners agreed with this argument, but wanted to make sure that this particular claim limitation was thoroughly searched during the initial search conducted by the Examiner before making a decision regarding allowing the claims.